



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

*Love of God
and Love of the Neighbour*



*Love of the Good
and Love of the Neighbour*

The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

Interfaith Scotland World Interfaith Harmony Week Report 2024 Interfaith Interactions: Pilgrimage



Interfaith Interactions: Pilgrimage



6 February, 7pm - 8.15 pm, on Zoom



Sunna Kaleem
Muslim



Nicola Maule
Buddhist



Dr. Dorothea Christiana
Christian

In April 2023, Interfaith Scotland launched a new online dialogue series to provide an inclusive and accessible platform for people to engage on different themes for each month. Each event features 3-4 speakers from different faith and belief backgrounds. They each speak for 10 minutes on the theme of the month. This is followed by an opportunity to ask the speakers questions and then to engage in dialogue in break-out rooms. We have featured speakers from various faith and belief backgrounds- Catholic, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Baha'i, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Pagan, Brahma Kumaris, Spiritual.

For World Interfaith Harmony Week, we invited three women from Christian, Muslim and Buddhist backgrounds to share the stories of Pilgrimages they have undertaken.

Our first speaker Nicola Maule from the Buddhist faith undertook a pilgrimage through different communities in South America. She spoke of the inner pilgrimage of self and also her experiences with the indigenous communities and what it felt like to share in their religious practices and community celebrations.

The next two speakers presented together about a pilgrimage they undertook together. Sunna Kaleem and Dr Dorothea Christiana undertook a pilgrimage from Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina to Italy. They undertook a pilgrimage to places of importance to Christianity, as a Christian and

Muslim. They had many experiences, some good and some bad but had an overall positive Interfaith journey.

This was followed by a Q&A session with the speakers. The audience was interested in learning more about the speakers' thoughts and reflections from their travels.

In the 20-minute break out room dialogue session the groups discussed the following questions:

Extract from the World Interfaith Harmony Week Website - It is hoped that this initiative (WIHW) will provide a focal point from which all people of goodwill can recognize that the common values they hold far outweigh the differences they have, and thus provide a strong dosage of peace and harmony to their communities.

- *How do the stories shared by the speakers relate to this aim of the World Interfaith Harmony Week initiative?*
- *If you could undertake an interfaith pilgrimage which places would be included in your list?*
- *What are some activities that you would suggest to promote peace and harmony in the world?*

These dialogue series have become a good way for the people of different faith and belief backgrounds to come together to learn more about each other's perspectives and increased understanding about other faiths. Interfaith Scotland hopes to continue this project as a way to promote harmonious co-existence among the different communities in Scotland.

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